

JOIN YOUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS
FOR
"GET THE DRIFT AND BAG IT"
Beach Cleanup
Saturday, September 17, 2005
8 AM – 12 Noon

Oneula Beach Park (Hau Bush)



A partnership of Hawaii Metal Recycling, Waste Management Inc., Unitek, Interstate Batteries, Grace Pacific / Sun Industries, Haseko (Ewa) Inc., City and County Department of Environmental Services, City and County Department of Parks, and the Office of Councilmember Todd K. Apo.

Volunteers Needed
Trash bags, gloves and lunch will be provided.

Contact Wendy Sefo
(808) 692-5509
wsefo@honolulu.gov



Todd K. Apo
Councilmember



Ewa-Ewa Beach-Honouliuli-West Loch
Kapolei-Kalaheo-Honokai Hale / Nanakai Gardens-Ko Olina
Nanakuli-Waiʻanae-Makaha-Keaau-Makua

MONTHLY REPORT

September 2005

Councilmember's Message

Aloha! As we come to the end of the summer months, I must start with a great big THANK YOU to everyone involved in fighting the (too) many fires that we experienced along the Leeward Coast and West Oahu areas over the past months. The efforts of City Fire Fighters, along with State, Military and other Federal personnel kept damage limited. While there was a great expense in these efforts, the success of the fire fighting is something we must all be thankful for. Let's all keep working on preventing any more fires.

Equally important is a GREAT BIG CONGRATULATIONS to our Ewa Beach Little Leaguers for bringing the Little League World Championship to Hawaii for the first time ever. The excitement will continue on for some time. The team has delivered many, many memories to all of us – from their exciting championship win, to their continued display of sportsmanship on and off the field. To the coaches, players and families . . . Thank you!

Property taxes have taken a brighter spot light at City Hall. A new "circuit breaker" protection on real property taxes was passed by the City Council and signed by Mayor Hannemann. If you are a homeowner and make less than \$50,000 per year, you will not have to pay more than 4% of your income for real property taxes. If you fall within this income range, please be sure to contact the City's Real Property Tax division to insure that you are protected by this new law. We will continue to see whether the protection should be expanded in the future – either to increase the income ceiling or to decrease the total percentage of income one should pay for real property taxes.

Additionally, we have all seen the increases in our property assessments. As we move into next year's budget period, we will take a very close look at the expected revenues from these increased assessments. I believe that because of the lag time between assessments and actual tax collection on assessments, the City is yet to see the impact of those assessments. I certainly hope that once those revenues become real, we will be able to look at additional real property tax breaks.

As the Transportation Committee Chair, we will begin the process of looking at all of the pieces of the "transportation puzzle" for our island. The bottom line is finding what pieces will fit together to provide real transportation solutions for Oahu. We will be looking at both big fixes – like mass transit – and smaller projects – like road improvements and "tinkering" with bus schedules and routes. We are also pushing the idea of crossing Pearl Harbor through a bridge system across Ford Island. I will continue meeting with the Navy to understand and attempt to find solutions to the concerns they raise for their operations and plans for the Pearl Harbor area. I encourage everyone to take part in the public discussions we will have – whether that means attending meetings and informational sessions or emailing me, other council members and the Mayor. I believe that the more participation we have, the better the end result will be.

Wishing everyone a good semester of school!

YOUR DISTRICT 1
STAFF AT YOUR SERVICE

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Our offices are located at:
Honolulu Hale – 530 S. King St., 2nd Floor
Kapolei Hale – 1000 Uluohia St., Suite 201

Councilmember Todd K. Apo
and West-side Solutions

Airing on Olelo Channel 54

Sundays @ 8:30 PM

Keeping Up In Kapolei *by Wendy Sefo*

After nearly two years of planning and design work the commencement of construction of the Ko Olina Marine Adventure Park is pending approval of its application for a conditional use permit. Ko Olina plans to begin construction in December of an interactive marine amusement park on 3.7 acres with hopes of opening the facility in late 2008.

Since January, developers have moved the site of the park to the adjoining JW Marriott Ihilani Resort & Spa side of the Ko Olina Resort, which requires a conditional use permit because the property is zoned as a resort district. The park will be on a 21.2-acre parcel makai of Aliinui Drive, between Olani Street and Kamoana Place.

The themed-attraction park is now envisioned as being in the class of Discovery Cove in Orlando, Fla., Atlantis Paradise Island in Nassau, Bahamas, and Ocean World Marina in the Dominican Republic.



Ko Olina Adventure Park intends to provide aquatic and adventure interactive experiences with marine life in three man-made lagoons and pools. Guests can swim with dolphins in the "Blue Lagoon"; encounter spotted eagle rays, brown stingrays and small black-tip and hammerhead sharks at "Shark Island"; or snorkel among tropical fish at the coral "Hawaiian Reef

The park will have a shallow beach for children where they will be able to see fish underwater. It also will feature waterfalls and water slides from higher to lower pools.

The estimated cost of the project is \$41 million.

The park will provide educational opportunities for students to work with marine biologists as well as employment opportunities.

The park will be open to the public and general operating hours are expected to be 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Working within Waiʻanae *by Karen Awana*

Updates

Nanakuli Canoe Halau

Councilmember Apo's staff met with Auntie Edie Van Giesen to discuss challenges with the canoe halau project at Nanakuli Beach Park (aka Kalanianaʻole Beach Park). This is one of many Vision Team Projects along the Waiʻanae Coast. Residents patiently anticipate a structure to house canoes and kayaks. The project is scheduled to commence this month.

Waiʻanae Canoe Halau

The Pokai Bay canoe halau is facing a few hurdles. Delays in receiving construction materials and cost overrides have stalled the completion of this project. Councilmember Apo will continue to work with the Department of Design and Construction to make sure the halau is completed as soon as possible.

Shinyei Nagamine Plaque

Waiʻanae Medal of Honor recipient, Private Shinyei Nagamine will soon be honored with a plaque fronting the Shinyei Nagamine District Park (aka Waiʻanae District Park). Family member, Anita Korenaga will be involved in the planning process. The Department of Parks and Recreation has notified Councilmember Apo of their plan to complete the plaque by the end of the year.

Herbert K. Pililaau Plaque Dedication Ceremony

Another Waiʻanae Medal of Honor recipient is Private First Class Herbert K. Pililaau. A few months ago, a plaque was placed at the Herbert Pililaau Park on Plantation Road. Councilmember Apo will be coordinating a dedication ceremony, which is scheduled for Discoverer's Day, October 10, 2005 from 9:00 am – 10:00 am. (This date is coincidentally his birthday.) Everyone is welcome!

The Analyst's Report: Council Legislative Highlights
:by Charmaine Doran

Ewa-Ford Island Bridge - Resolution 05-304

On August 28, 2005, Councilmember Todd Apo and Charles Djou held a joint press conference to introduce Resolution 05-304. This legislation is a significant step forward in addressing district traffic problems as Resolution 05-304 expresses the City's commitment to examine building a bridge between Ewa and downtown Honolulu.

Councilmember Apo, who first proposed the bridge idea in 2004, has continually worked to bring the bridge concept forward for public discussion and consideration. The first step in the process was achieved during the recent budget cycle when he successfully added \$350,000 dollars to the City's 2005-2006 CIP for a bridge feasibility study. A feasibility study is an important part of the project seeing that it will provide an analysis about the projected building costs and identify some of the potential impacts of the proposed bridge route. Resolution 05-304 presents the opportunity to accomplish another step in the process, since it directs the Administration to complete this feasibility study as soon as possible.

So far, Resolution 05-304 has received approval from the Council's Transportation Committee. However, this is only one of many legislative hurdles. The full Council is expected to consider Resolution 05-304 at its next meeting on the 28th of September at Kapolei Hale. District 1 residents are encouraged to attend this meeting to support Resolution 05-304.

According to Councilmember Apo, "looking at the possibility of constructing a bridge between Ewa and downtown Honolulu will demonstrate the City's commitment to really addressing our current traffic situation. It is necessary for us to know what all the alternatives are and to be aware of what options hold promise in alleviating our traffic problems. Conducting the feasibility study and approving this resolution is a step in that direction."

Interested individuals are encouraged to visit the Council's webpage or to call Councilmember Apo directly at 547-7001 for more information.

Council webpage <http://www.honolulu.gov/council/index1.htm>

